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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/565,994

01/23/2006

Geum-Suk Lee

JCLA19238

9536

7590

07/11/2006

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EXAMINER

TRAN, HOANG Q

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2874

DATE MAILED: 07/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/565,994		LEE, GEUM-SUK	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Hoang Tran		2874	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 January 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>01/23/06, 6/16/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the US Patent to Semura (5,696,860).

In terms of Claim 1, Semura teaches a fixer for fiber, the fixer including a pair of fixing pieces (Fig 2 [26,33]), wherein each of the fixing pieces has a groove at a bottom surface of the fixing piece, and a tube receiving portion protruded from one side of the fixing piece, which communicates with the sensor holding groove (Fig 2 [16, 18]); a tube enclosing the fiber is disposed between the pair of fixing pieces, such that both ends of the tube are detachably secured to each of the tube receiving portions of the fixing pieces by a fastening member (Fig 2 and Col 3 [1-67]); and the fiber is inserted into the tube and both ends of the fiber are firmly secured to the holding groove of fixing piece by an adhesive (Fig 2).

As for Claim 2, Semura teaches the device of Claim 1, further comprising a cover for closing the holding groove (Fig 2).

As for Claim 4, Semura teaches the device of Claim 1, wherein the holding groove is formed with at least one anti slip groove at an inner side thereof so that when the adhesive filled in the sensor holding groove is harden, it prevents a clearance form

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being produce in the holding groove due to coefficient of linear expansion between the fixing piece and the adhesive (Fig 6).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over of the US Patent to Semura in view of the Japanese Patent Application Publication to Kondo (2002-162211).

Regarding Claim 3 and 5, Semura teaches the device of Claim 1. Semura does not teach the device of Claim 1, wherein the fixing means includes a tube which is fasten through a threaded engagement system and a fixing plate being detachable through a fastening member component. Kondo does the threaded engagement system (Fig 3 and 4) and a fixing plate which is fixed through a fastening member (Paragraph 23 and 24) in order to properly secure the tube and the fixing components. **A motivation** for such an application would be to increase the mechanical coupling the components through fastening means of a screw. Therefore it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to apply the mechanical fastening systems of Kondo to the device of Semura in order to increase the mechanical couple strength of the of the coupler.

Claims 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over of the US Patent to Semura in view of the US Patent to Seike (5,367,591).

Regarding Claim 6, Semura teaches the device of Claim 1. Semura does not teach the device of Claim 1, wherein the tube inserted into the tube-receiving portion is provided at both ends thereof with a tap to easily prevent a rotation of the tube and maintain a horizontal state. Seike does a tap like geometric structure in order to increase mechanical coupling and protect the optical fiber from environmental damage. A motivation for such an application would be to protect the fiber from environmental damage and increase the mechanical couple of the fibers with the tube connectors. Therefore it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to apply teachings of Seike to the device of Semura in order to increase the mechanical coupling strength between the fiber and the tube passageway.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoang Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-5049. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney Bovernick can be reached on 571-272-2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ht



Hoang Tran
AU 2874
July 10, 2006



SUNG PAK
PRIMARY EXAMINER